

**Climbers Guide to Select Routes**  
**In**  
**ZONE ONE**  
**Castle Rocks State Park**

# Castle Rocks State Park, Zone One

North



N

M

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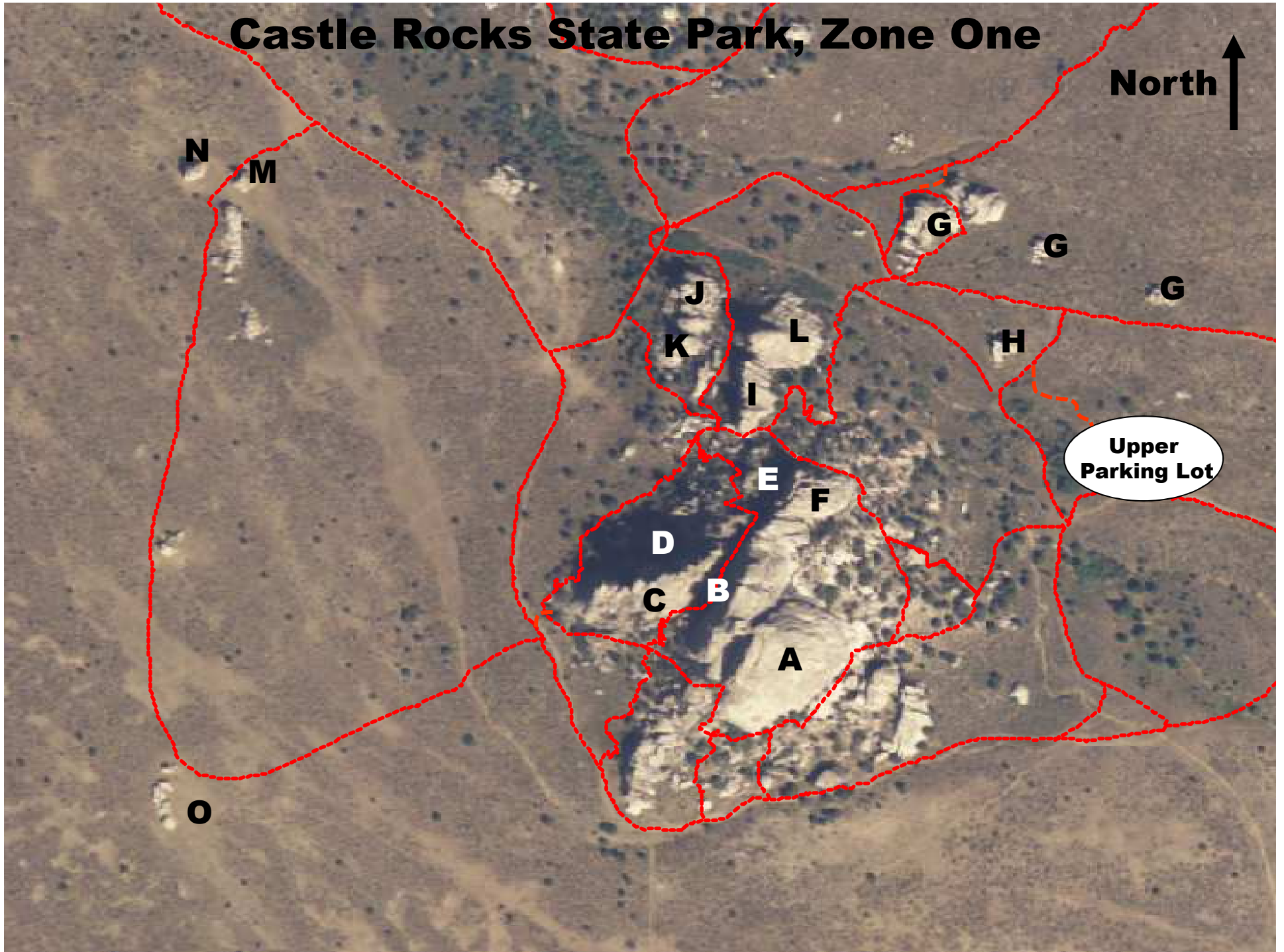
C

B

A

O

Upper  
Parking Lot



## **Castle Rocks State Park Zone One Map**

**A: Castle Rock East and South - pages 5-9**

**B: Hostess Gully - pages 10-13**

**C: Shock and Awe (Castle Rock, West Summit, South Side) - page 13**

**D: Excalibur (Castle Rock, West Summit, West and North Sides) - page 14**

**E: Crack House and North Face (Castle Rock North West) page - 15-19**

**F: Crimson Arete Area (Castle Rock North East) - pages 20, 21**

**G: Tiny Town (several formations) - page 22**

**H: Kid Rock - page 23**

**I: Poultry Pillar – pages 24, 25**

**J: Saw Tooth Spire – pages 26, 27**

**K: Saddle Horn – pages 26, 28**

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**N: Johnny Cash Memorial Tower (Back Yard Boulders area) – page 30**

**O: Three-Pool Boulders – bouldering map page 31**

**Zone One(Z1) refers to the first of 3 “Fixed Anchor Management” zones in Castle Rocks State Park to be opened to drilled fixed anchors(bolts). What follows is a bare bones guide to selected routes in Z1. There are uncounted clean climbs (not bolted) in Z1 that aren’t included here-basically from lack of space. Many of these routes have received multiple “first” ascents and have multiple names.**

**Almost all routes in Castles are equipped to descend with a single 60 meter rope. A common strategy is to combine pitches on the ascent, then catch all the raps on the way down.**

**Persons drilling in Castles agree to a number of “rules” - one of which is not bolting next to protect-able cracks. The result is that many of the routes are “mixed pro”. Be prepared.**

**Comments, corrections or additions to this guide are welcome!**

**New routes are being done all the time in the Castles so this guide is freshness dated: 03-22-2012.**

**PLEASE! Be gentle with the park..don’t overload the staging areas at the base of the climbs, use the trails provided, and mind your pets! THANKS!!!**

**In order to obtain a permit to drill, or for information regarding climbing at City of Rocks or Castle Rocks contact me at 208-824-5914 or E-Mail [brad\\_shilling@partner.nps.gov](mailto:brad_shilling@partner.nps.gov)**



## Castle Rock, East Side

**A: Carpe Spot! 5.11b\*\* bolts**

**B: Smiley Face 5.9\*\* bolts and gear**

**C: Hospitaliano 5.10a bolts and gear**

**D: Fat Larry 5.10a gear**

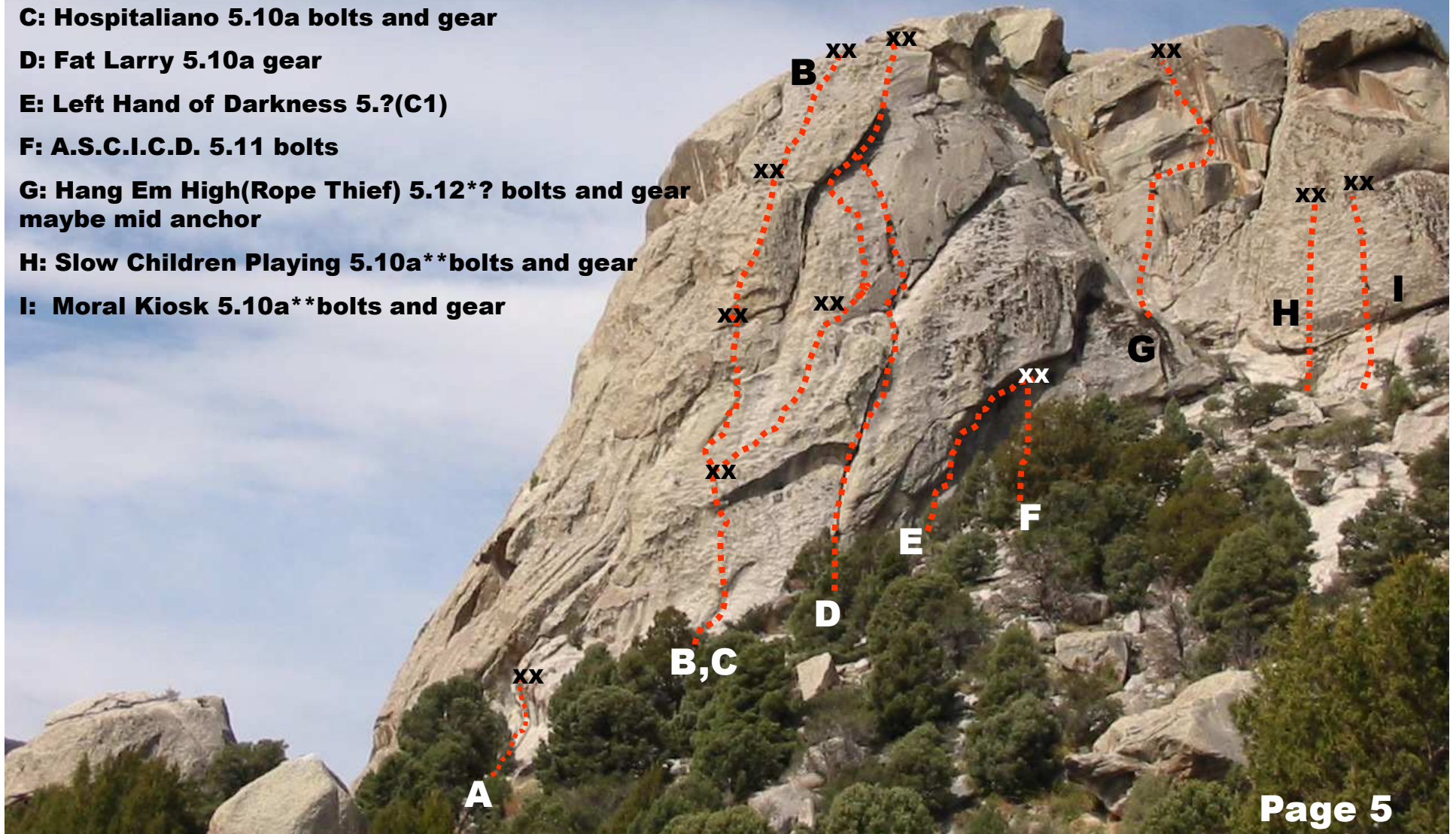
**E: Left Hand of Darkness 5.?(C1)**

**F: A.S.C.I.C.D. 5.11 bolts**

**G: Hang Em High(Rope Thief) 5.12\*? bolts and gear  
maybe mid anchor**

**H: Slow Children Playing 5.10a\*\* bolts and gear**

**I: Moral Kiosk 5.10a\*\* bolts and gear**



## Castle Rock South East

**A: Red Rib 5.10a\*\*\*\* bolts - descend “Little Time”**

**A+(B-?): High Times 5.7\*\* bolts and one piece of gear to start...**

**B: Little Time 5.6\*\*\*bolts**

**C: Big Time 5.8\*\*\* bolts - the third set of chains encountered are the top anchors of “Little Time” no need to stop here, continue to the next anchor.**

**D: Castle Keep 5.8\*\*bolts**

**E: High Road 5.11a\*\*\* bolts and one cam - pitch one and two are 100' and 5.10a. Pitch three is 140' 11a.**

**Avoid loose chimney by going hard right at start of pitch three then up a hand crack to gain bolts. #2 or #3 Camalot size. Stay right at cruxes on pitch three. Descend “Big Time”**

**E+(F-): Bella? 5.10c bolts**

**F: The Wedding Gift 5.11a one bolt and gear. Either continue up and join High Road or traverse to Pollo Negro anchors**

**G: Pollo Negro 5.10b\*\* bolts**

**H: Poster Chicken 5.9\*\*\* bolts and gear, 150' +. Can descend with one rope by tensioning over to Pollo**

**I: Skilly 5.10a\* gear use Poster Chicken anchors and descent**

**J: Power Brokers 5.11c\* bolts and gear- continue to Poster Chicken anchors as above or use two ropes for descent**

**K: Carpe Spot! 5.11b\*\* bolts**

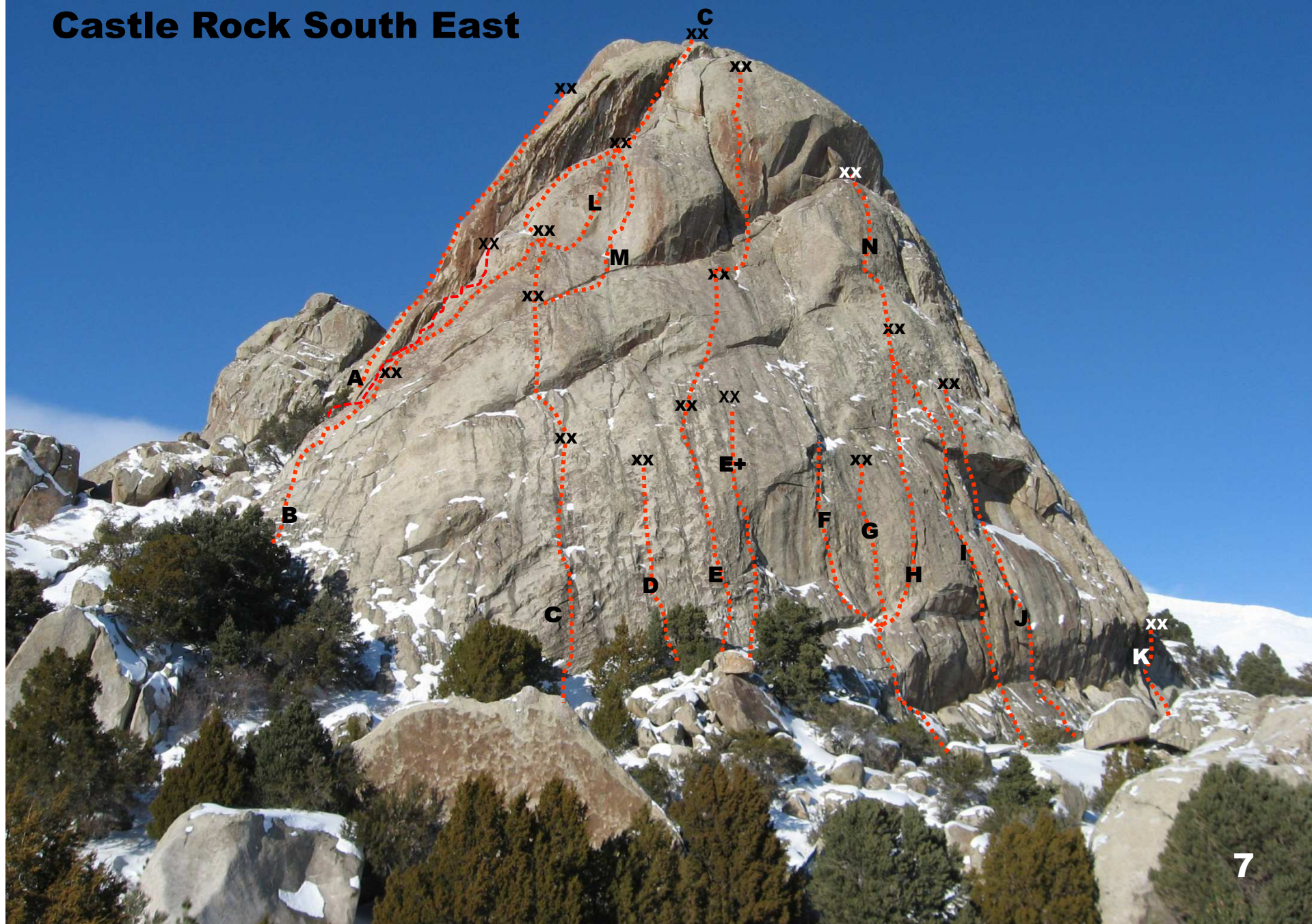
**L: BT Direct 5.11a\* bolts**

**M: Diamond in the Rough 5.9\*\* gear**

**N: Homeland (In)Security 5.11c\*\*\* bolts - Devious second pitch of Poster Chicken**



# Castle Rock South East



# Castle Rock South

8

**A: A Thousand Moons 5.11a\*\* bolts and gear**

**B: Red Rib 5.10a\*\*\*\* bolts descend “Little Time”**

**B+(C-) High Times\*\* bolts and one piece at the start..**

**C: Little Time 5.6\*\*\* bolts**

**D: Big Time 5.8\*\*\* bolts the third set of chains encountered are the top anchors of “Little Time” no need to stop here, continue to the next anchor.**

**E: Castle Keep 5.8\*\* bolts**

**F: High Road 5.11a\*\*\* bolts and one or two cams Pitch one and two are 100’ and 5.10a. Pitch three is 140’ 11a. Avoid loose chimney by going hard right at start of pitch three then up a hand crack to gain bolts.#2 or #3 Camalot size. Stay right at cruxes on pitch three. Descend “Big Time”**

**G: Poster Chicken 5.9\*\*\* bolts and gear, 150’. Can descend with one rope by tensioning over to Pollo Negro**

**H: Dead Drunk and Naked 5.10d\*\* one bolt and gear – can approach via the gully scramble, Patina Atolls, Leather and Lice, or Thousand Moons - descend Blind Pig or down climb North Ridge**

**I: Southern Rock Opera 5.11d\*\*\* or C1 beautiful thin finger crack -widens at the end-descend Blind Pig or down climb North Ridge route(5.5) - approach as above**

**J: Country Western Ballad 5.11c\*\*\* bolts**

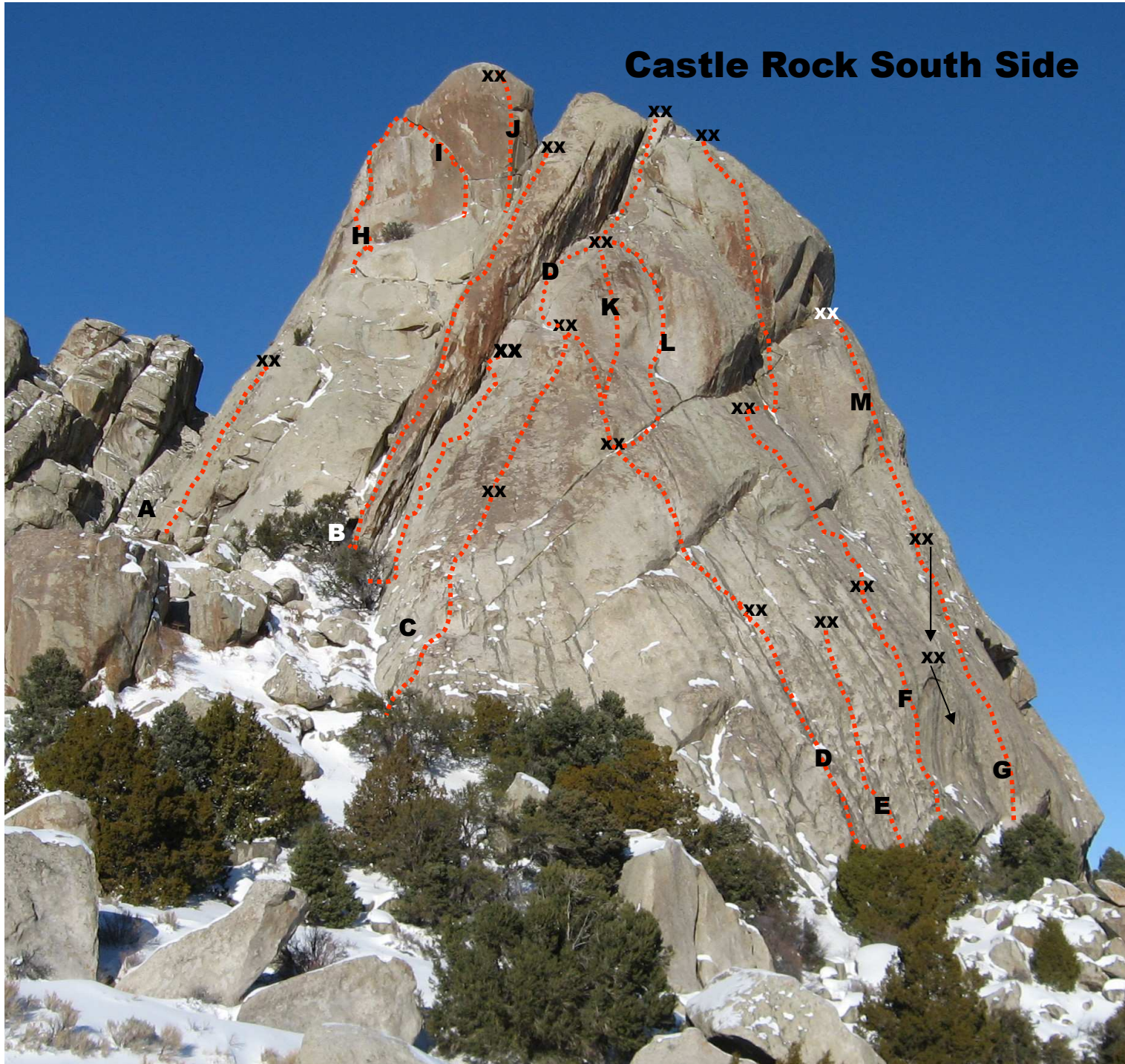
**K: BT Direct 5.11a\* bolts**

**L: Diamond in the Rough 5.9\*\* gear**

**M: Homeland Insecurity 5.11c\*\*\* bolts - Devious second pitch of Poster Chicken**



## Castle Rock South Side



## **Castle Rock, Hostess Gully Area** anchors not shown - generally every 100'

**10**

**A: Three Bits 5.9\*\* bolts**

**B: Honeymoon in Almo 5.10c\*\*\* bolts**

**C: Blind Pig 5.10a\*\* bolts** Take a long sling or two to reduce rope drag

**D: Between Heaven and Earth 5.9\*\*\* bolts** Long pitch-descend Blind Pig

**E: It Takes Two 5.8\*\*\* bolts**

**E+(F-) One For Matt 5.9\*\*\* bolts and gear**

**F: HO-HO 5.11a\*\* bolts** - goes to Twinkie first anchor

**G: Twinkie 5.10c\*\*\*\*** the first pitch is one of the best in the park. Take a finger sized(.5 Camalot/red Alien) sized cam or equivalent for first pitch, wires for top pitch. Pitch two and three each have a spot of 10a

**H: Zinger 5.8\*\* bolts-** side clippy to start but improves with height

**I: Fruit Pie 5.7\*\* bolts** - A fun option is “Fruit Zinger” 5.8\*\*\* bolts” from the top of Fruit Pie(2<sup>nd</sup> anchor) traverse and join Zinger to the top.

**J: Patina Atolls 5.10d/11a\*\*\* bolts and optional gear low.** Either two ropes or a 70M for descent.Stellar!

**K: Leather and Lice 5.10** Crack to Patina Atolls anchor.

**L: A Thousand Moons 5.11a\*\* bolts and thin gear**

**M: Fruit Filling 5.10d\*\*** the extension of Fruit Pie - smooth slabness to a thin crack - descend Blind Pig

**N: Dead Drunk and Naked 5.10d\*\*** one bolt and gear – can approach via the gully scramble, Patina Atolls, Leather and Lice, or Thousand Moons, descend Blind Pig

**O: Southern Rock Opera 5.11d\*\*\* or C1\*\*\*** - beautiful thin finger crack -widens at the end-descend Blind Pig or down climb North Ridge route(5.5) approach as above

**P: Country Western Ballad 5.11c\*\*\* bolts** – Aesthetic!

**Q: El Castletan 5.10a\*\*\*** one bolt and gear to 2.5” -great climb. 100 foot rap back into gully above 2<sup>nd</sup> chockstone down climb from there(5.5)

**R: Numb Schull 5.10a\*\* bolts and a couple of thin pieces**

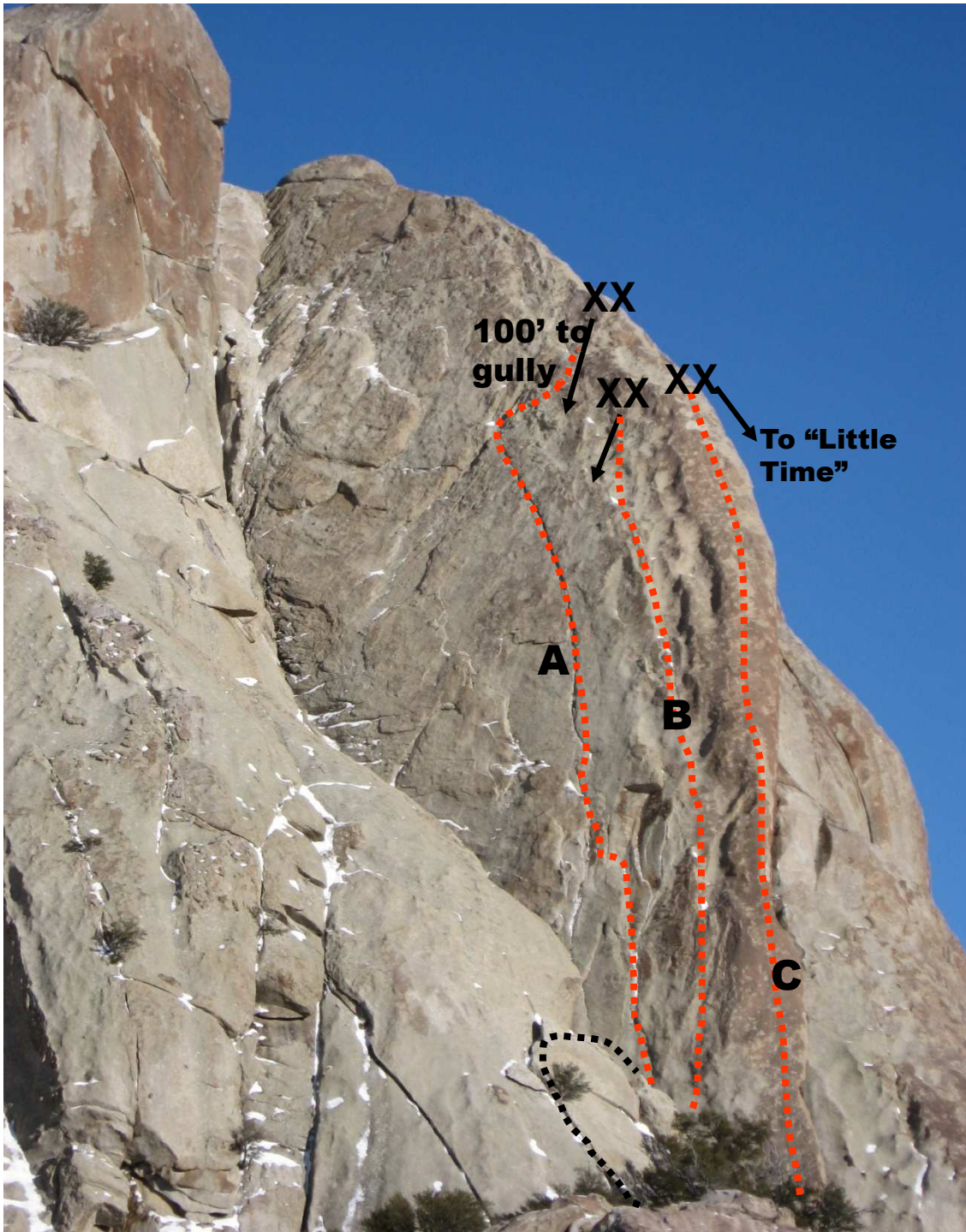
**S: Red Rib 5.10a\*\*\*\*** One of the best in the park. Rap east off the Rib to “Little Time” descent



# Castle Rock Main Summit, West Side-Hostess Gully and Red Rib Areas







## Castle Rock, Red Rib Area

**A: El Castletan 5.10a\*\*\* one bolt and gear to 2.5"**

**B: Numb Schull 5.10a\*\*\* bolts and thin gear**

Both routes begin above the first chockstone, which can be by passed to the left. The rap ends above the second chockstone..then scramble down(5.5)

**C: Red Rib 5.10a\*\*\*\* one of the best routes in the Castles. Originally done with 6 bolts to the El Castletan anchors, now sports 13 bolts to its own anchor. Rap to Little Time then down.**



## Castle Rock West Summit, South Side

**A: Claim Jumper 5.11a\* bolts and gear**

**B: Shock and Awe 5.9/10a\*\*\*\* bolts, scramble to tree ledge to start**

**C: Ad-Vance to Idaho 5.9\* bolts and gear**

**D: Olympus Wrecks 5.11c\*\* gear and two bolts D,E,J**

**E: Tiers of Joy 5.10c\*\* gear**

**F: Bone Crack 5.9\* gear**

**G: Drews Dihedral 5.9\* bolt and gear**

**H: Poking Holes 5.6\*\*\* bolts**

**I: Scorpio Rising 5.8\* bolts**

**J: Old Way 5.9\* gear**

**K: Squinch 5.12a\*\* bolts**





## Castle Rock, West Summit, NW Side

**A: New Arrival 5.9\*gear and a couple of bolts**

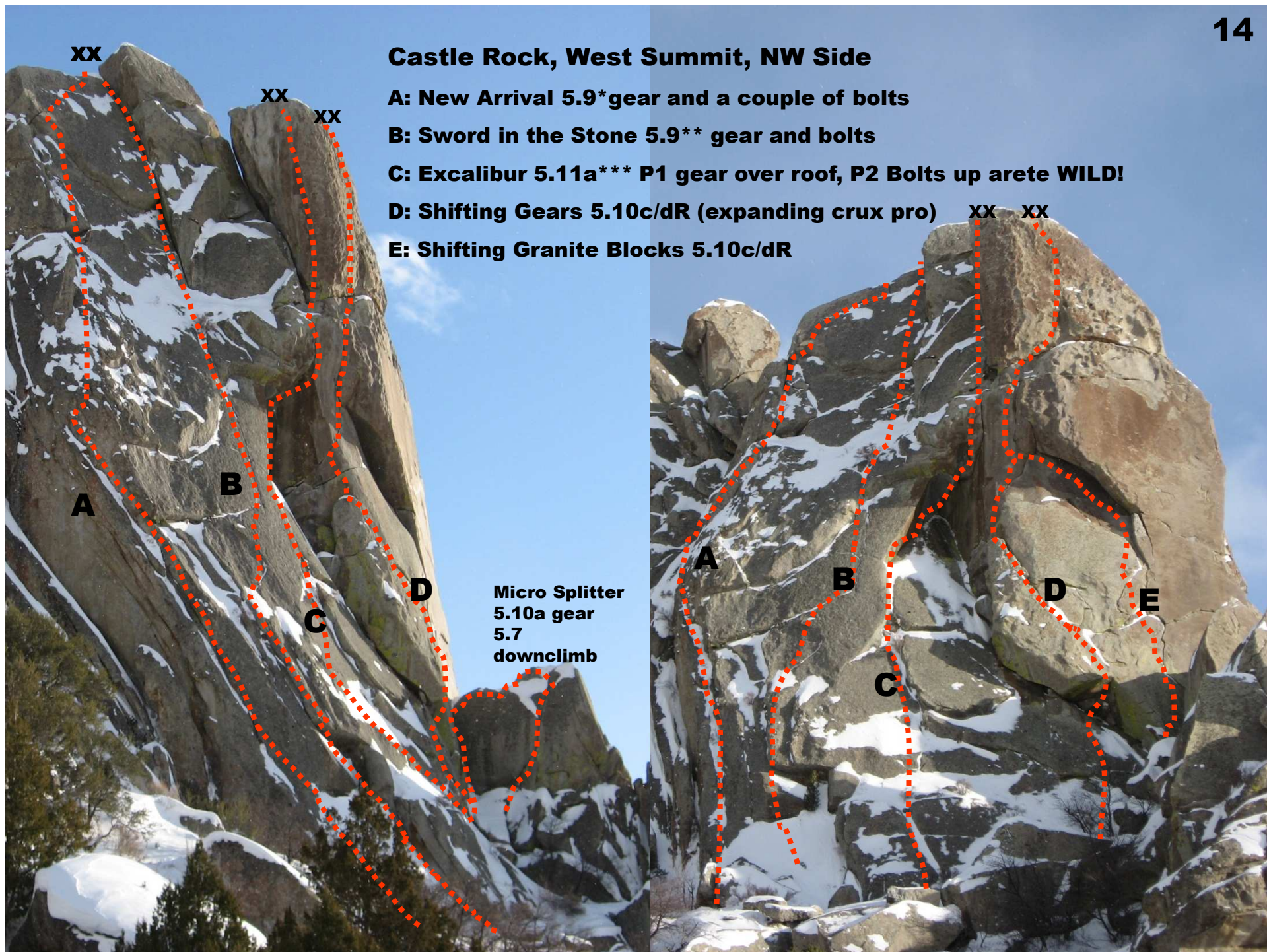
**B: Sword in the Stone 5.9\*\* gear and bolts**

**C: Excalibur 5.11a\*\*\* P1 gear over roof, P2 Bolts up arete WILD!**

**D: Shifting Gears 5.10c/dR (expanding crux pro)**

**E: Shifting Granite Blocks 5.10c/dR**

**Micro Splitter  
5.10a gear  
5.7  
downclimb**





## Castle Rock North End, West Side (C-House Area)

**A: Hair Styles and Attitudes 5.10d\*\*bolts**

**B: Gargoyle Gardens 5.7\*\*\*gear**

**C: It's Hard To Say No 5.8\*\*\*gear**

**D: Dark Rock Good Rock 5.8\*gear**

**E: Jug-A-Lug 5.10a\*\*bolts**

**F: High Desert 5.10a\*\*bolts and gear**



**Castle Rock North End, West Side** was named the Crack House by some of the folks who climbed there before the establishment of the State Park. An unfortunate name for what is arguably the best concentration of easy to moderate clean climbs in the Castles.

The routes here have many names, only those that lead to anchors are indicated in this guide. There are at least 15 independent lines but it is possible to climb at an easy to moderate grade over almost every square foot of the Crack House-making it possible to move from one crack to the next and combine routes.

Another bonus is that this area is one of the best caches of shade in the Castles.

Full length runners are handy to sling the many horns and the pro with nuts and cams is generally excellent (“Bold Yellow” is an exception—tricky pro).

The rap from “It’s Hard to Say No” is 120’ but it is possible to get down with one 60 meter rope by traversing off to climbers right above the prominent boulder at the bottom. Watch your ends!

On the far right side is the only completely bolted climb—Jug-a-Lug-- which has a truly height dependent crux. Taller is better in this case.

Please be careful not to destroy the cliffside vegetation here, if it is in your way-go around!! THANKS



## Castle Rock North West

**A:** Jesus and Einstein 5.10b\*\*bolts

**B:** Hair Styles and Attitudes 5.10d\*\*bolts

**C:** Orange Crack 5.10a\*gear

**D:** Bold Yellow 5.10b\*gear

**E:** Gargoyle Gardens 5.7\*\*\*gear

**F:** It's Hard to Say No 5.7/8\*\*\*gear(120')

**G:** Jug-A-Lug 5.10a\*\*bolts

**H:** High Desert 5.10a\*\* bolts and gear





## Castle Rock North Face

**A:** Oh W! 5.10b wide crack, crux in scrappy rock above. Descend TNF

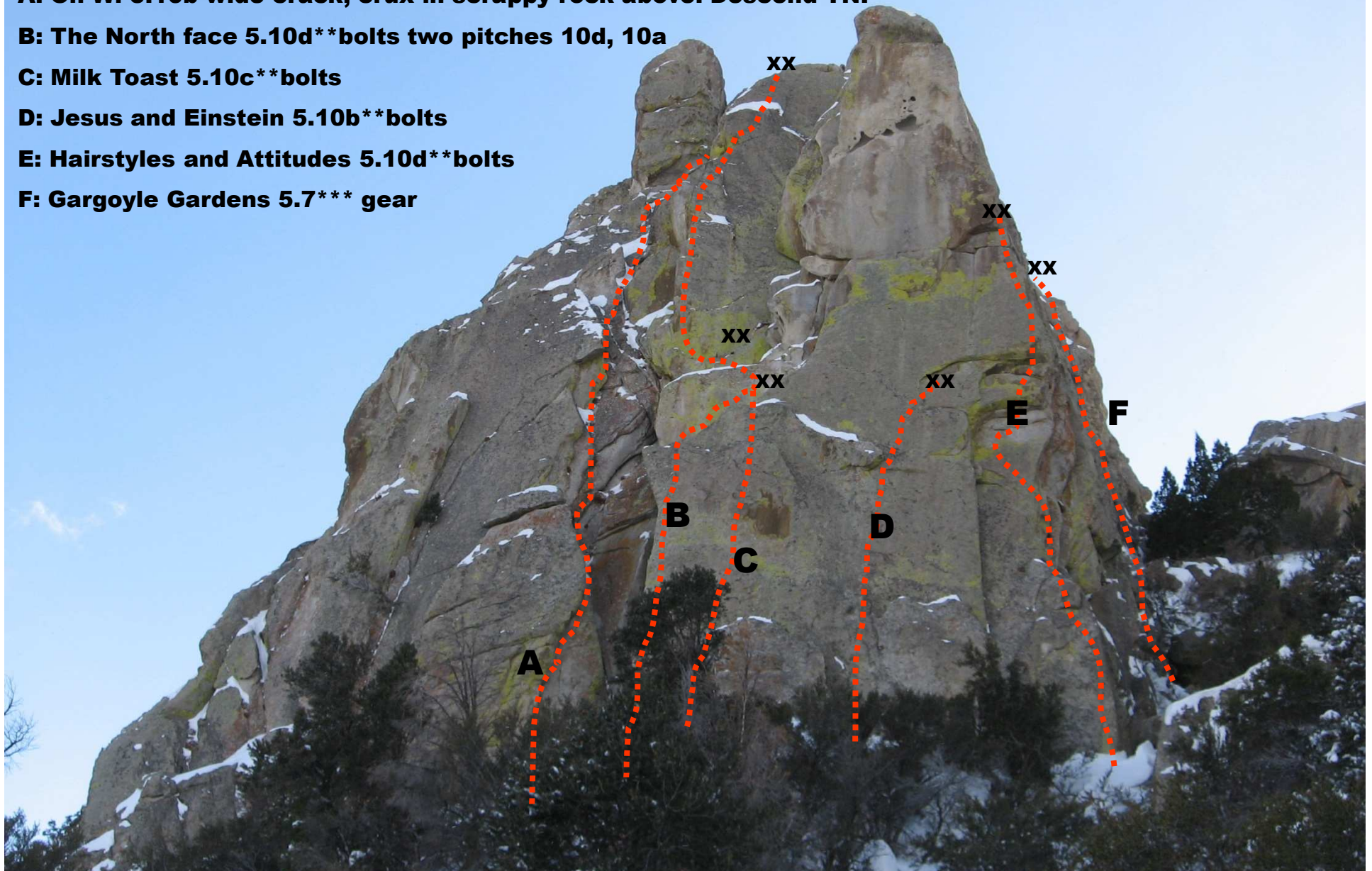
**B:** The North face 5.10d\*\*bolts two pitches 10d, 10a

**C:** Milk Toast 5.10c\*\*bolts

**D:** Jesus and Einstein 5.10b\*\*bolts

**E:** Hairstyles and Attitudes 5.10d\*\*bolts

**F:** Gargoyle Gardens 5.7\*\*\* gear





## Castle Rock North Face

**A-: No Climb For Old Men 5.10b\*\* bolts(line approximate)**

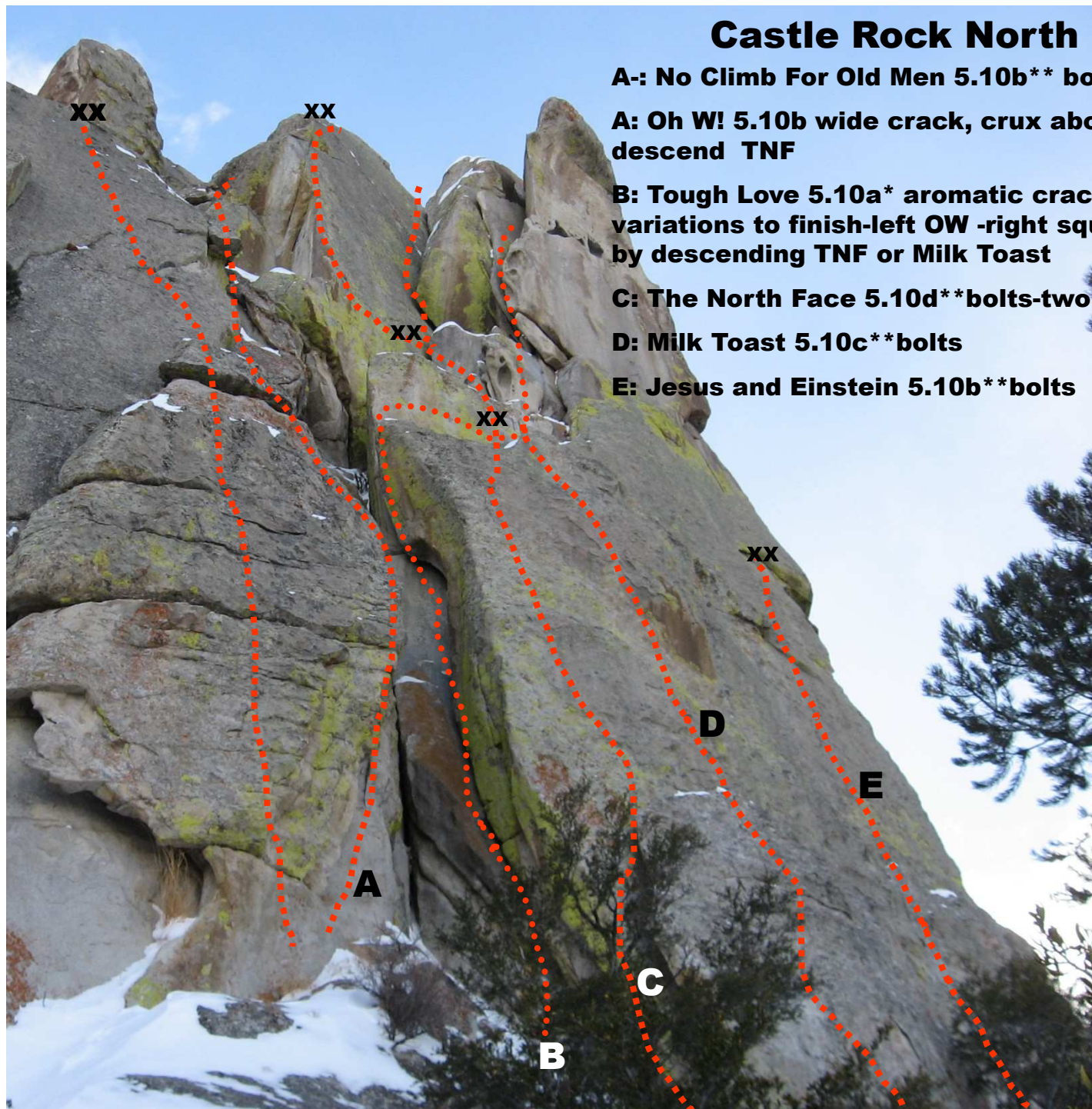
**A: Oh W! 5.10b wide crack, crux above in scrappy rock, descend TNF**

**B: Tough Love 5.10a\* aromatic crack system in side wall. Two variations to finish-left OW -right squeeze chimney. Can skip P2 by descending TNF or Milk Toast**

**C: The North Face 5.10d\*\*bolts-two pitches 10d, 10a**

**D: Milk Toast 5.10c\*\*bolts**

**E: Jesus and Einstein 5.10b\*\*bolts**



**The North Face of Castle Rock offers the most consistent shade in Castles. Though the rock is somewhat gritty, it is sure to clean up with repeated ascents. Look for new routes to appear to the left in years to come.**



## Castle Rock North End, East Side

**A:** Hard to be a Saint 5.12c unconfirmed, bolts

**B:** Crack\* 5.9 gear, descend Crack House

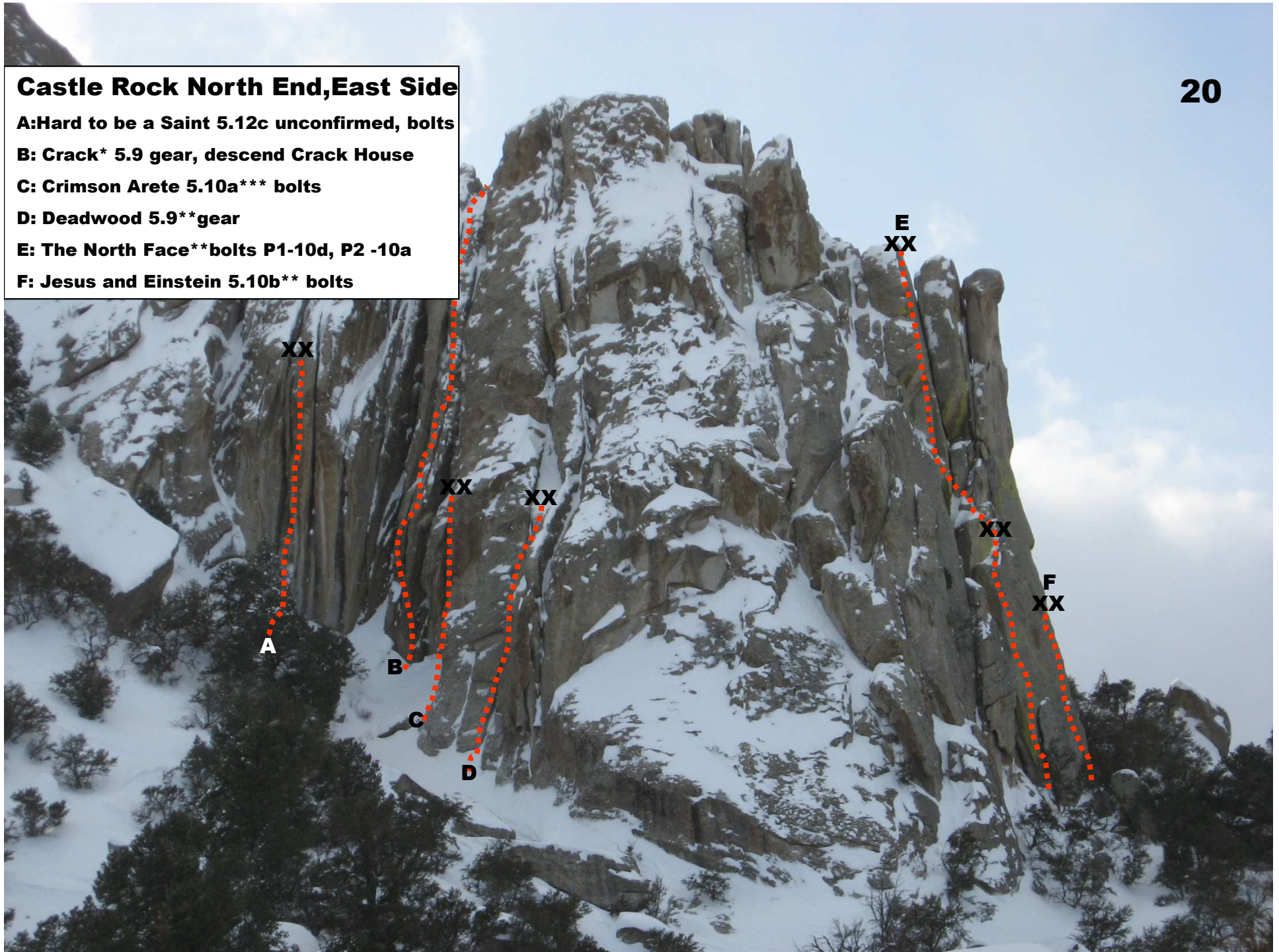
**C:** Crimson Arete 5.10a\*\*\* bolts

**D:** Deadwood 5.9\*\* gear

**E:** The North Face\*\* bolts P1-10d, P2 -10a

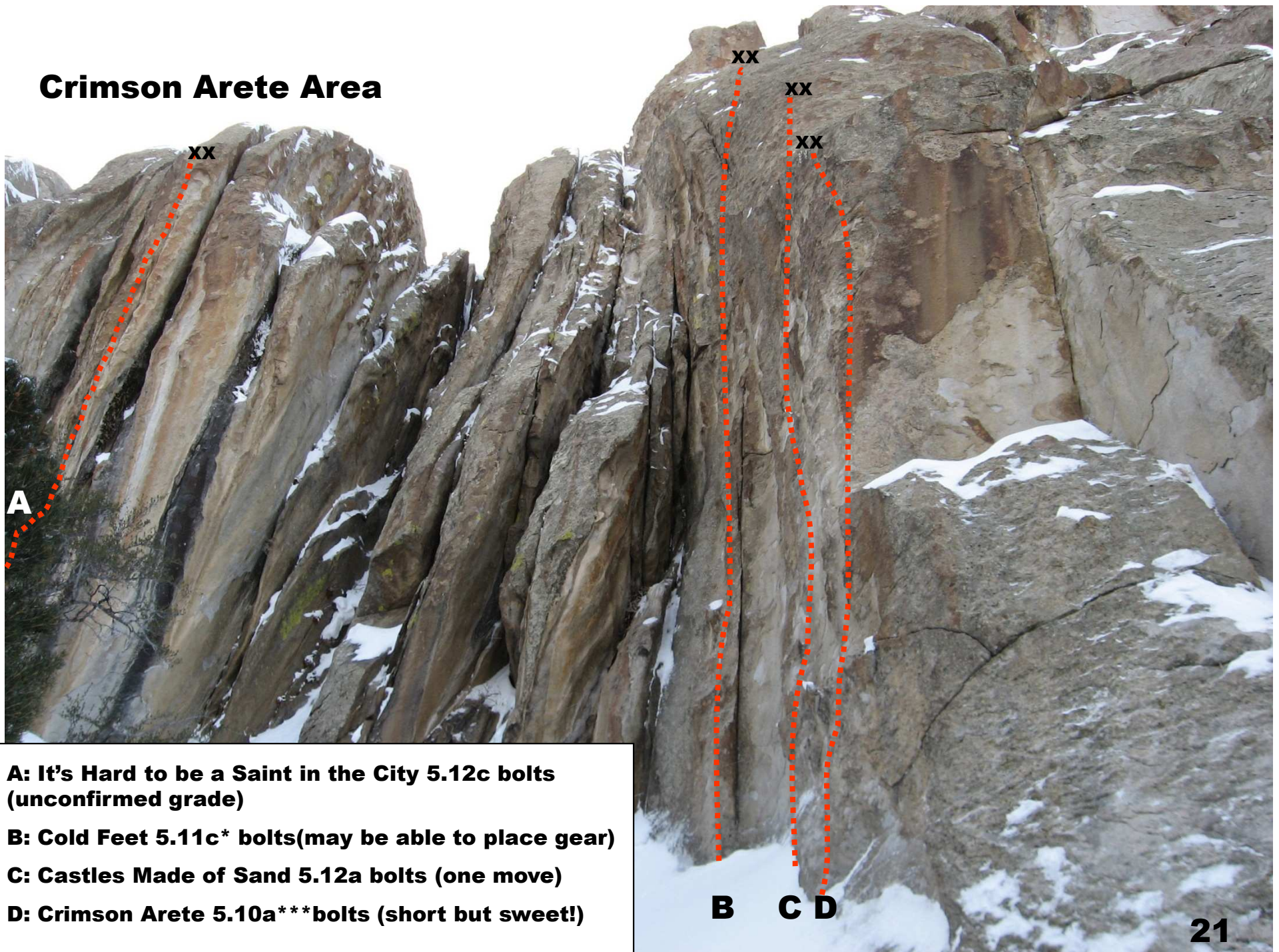
**F:** Jesus and Einstein 5.10b\*\* bolts

20





## Crimson Arete Area



**A: It's Hard to be a Saint in the City 5.12c bolts  
(unconfirmed grade)**

**B: Cold Feet 5.11c\* bolts(may be able to place gear)**

**C: Castles Made of Sand 5.12a bolts (one move)**

**D: Crimson Arete 5.10a\*\*\* bolts (short but sweet!)**



**A: Short Sport 5.10a\*\* bolts**

**B: Ray of Heaven 5.8 bolts**

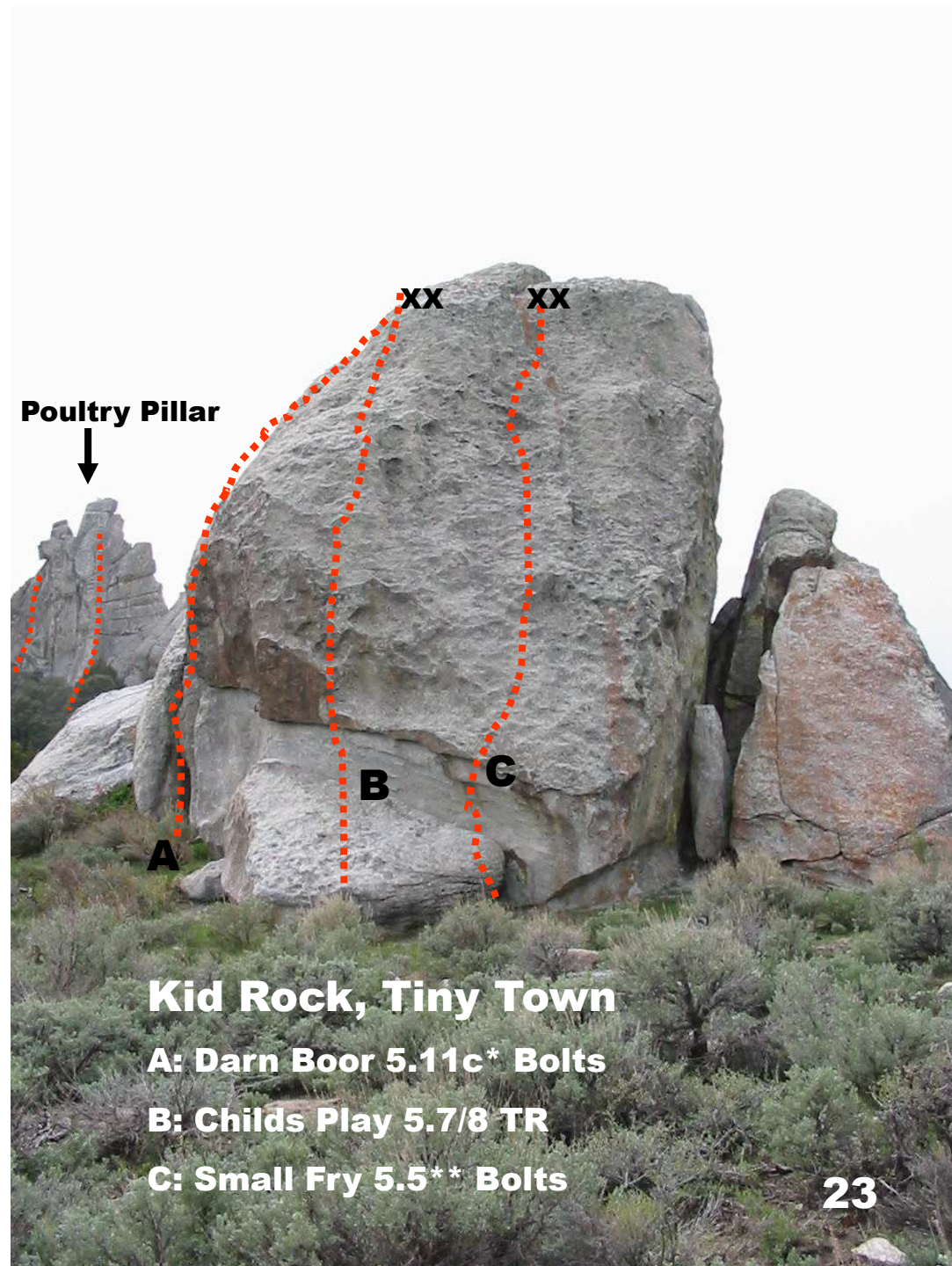
**C: Six Feet Over 5.10b\*\* bolts**



**Tiny Town** consists of at least five small formations—only the farthest west rocks have established lead routes. Note that there are many named and unnamed crack climbs here—only the bolted routes are shown above. In general, Tiny Town is a bouldering area. On the west aspect of the west rock are prehistoric pictographs that are fenced in. Please refrain from bouldering within the fence.



The following nine formations are some of the small spires scattered around the main Castle Rock massif. They are generally described as one would encounter them from the Ranch House trail head. The first group is Tiny Town, then a little farther west are Poultry Pillar, O-Town Spire, Saddle Horn and Saw Tooth. Farther still, up on the bench in the meadows are the “Back Yard Boulders” among which are Beef Butte and Johnny Cash Memorial Tower. Both Tiny Town and the Back Yard Boulders are recommended venues for folks with kids/babies because they are short and surrounded by relatively flat ground.





## Poultry Pillar East

**A: Groom With A View 5.10b\* bolts**

**B: To Have And To Hold 5.9\*\* bolts**

**C: Opuntia 5.10a\* bolts**

**24**





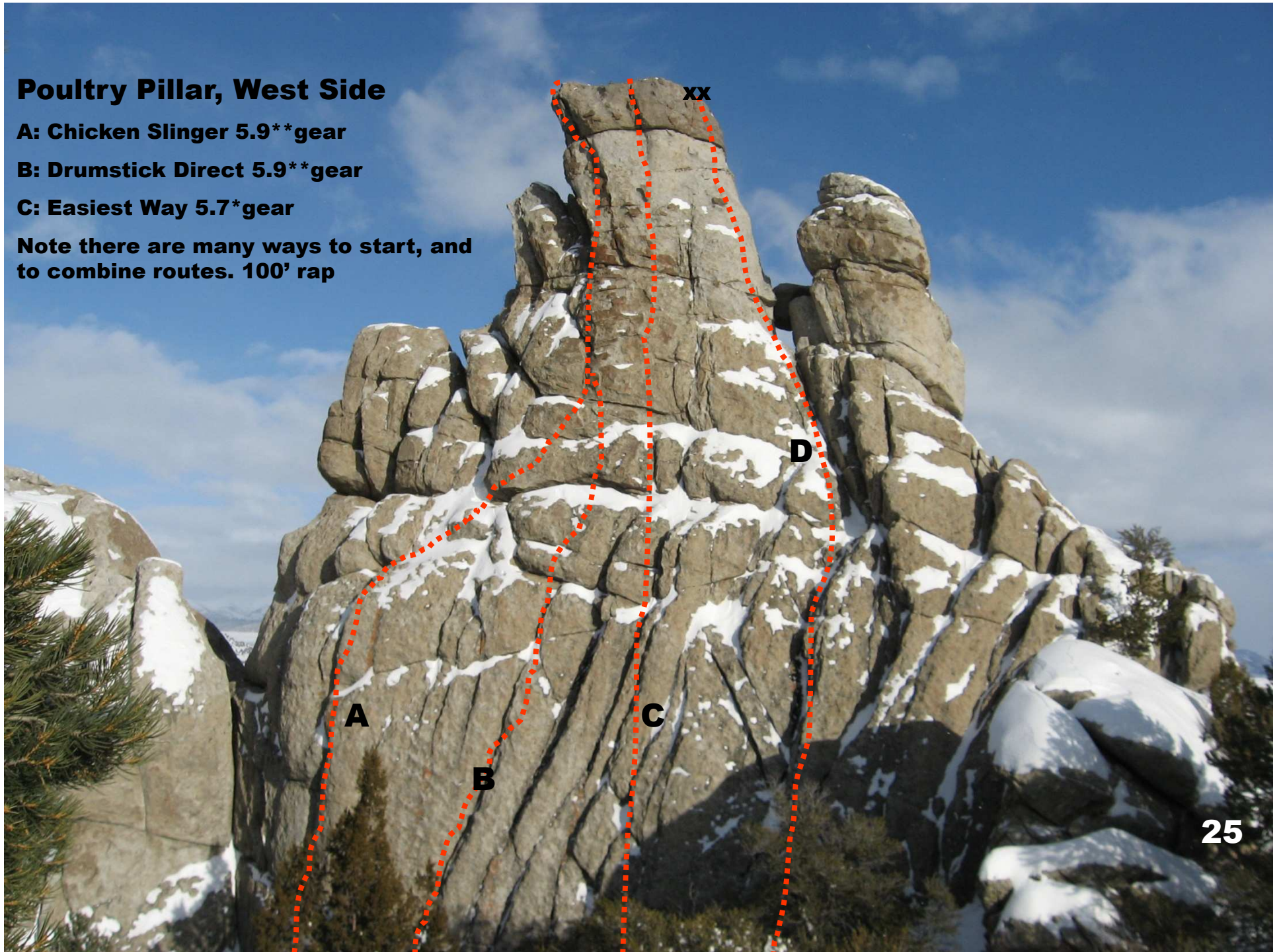
## **Poultry Pillar, West Side**

**A: Chicken Slinger 5.9\*\*gear**

**B: Drumstick Direct 5.9\*\*gear**

**C: Easiest Way 5.7\*gear**

**Note there are many ways to start, and  
to combine routes. 100' rap**





## Saddle Horn and Saw Tooth

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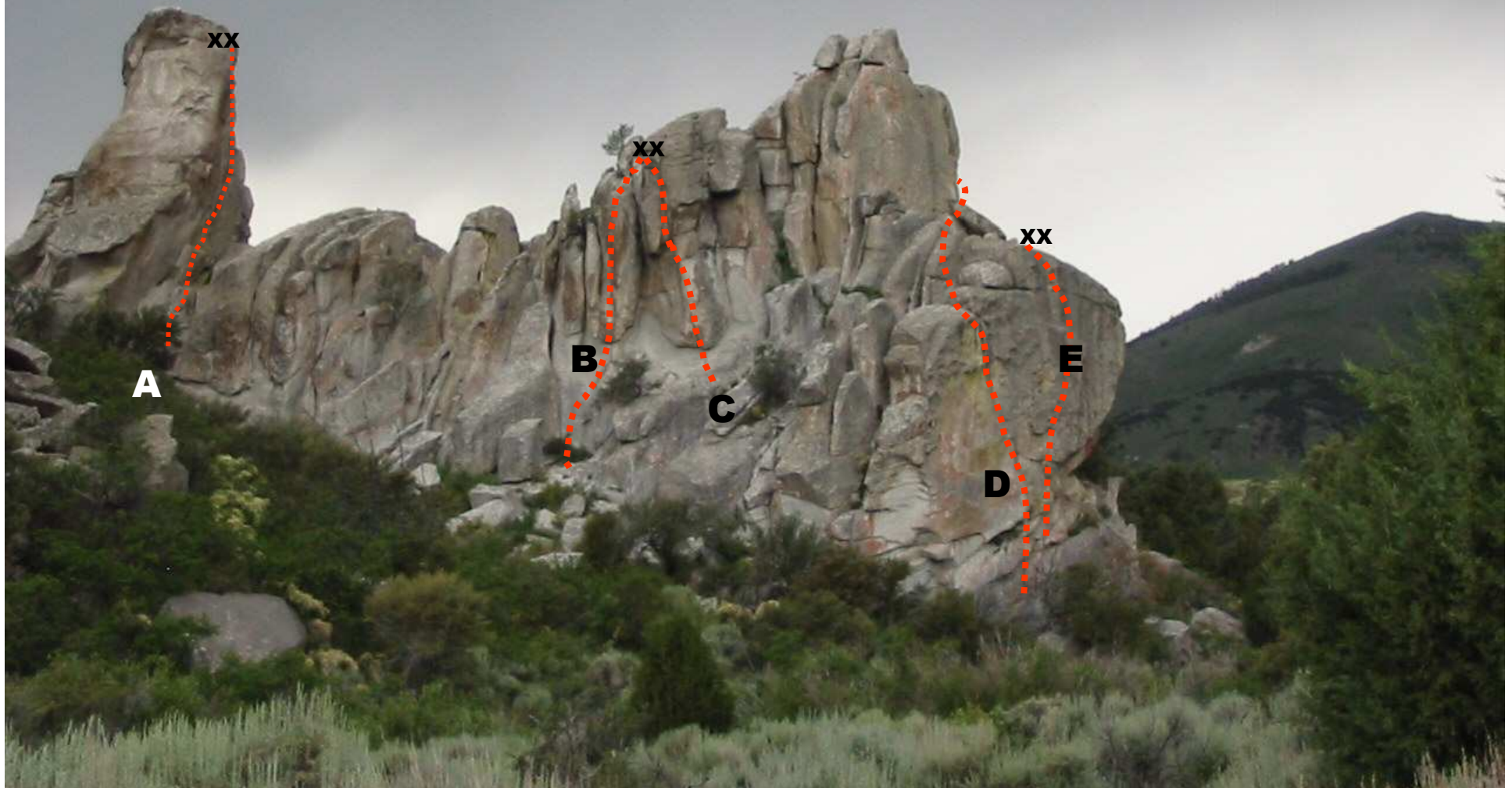
**A: Fool For the City 5.11a\*\*\* bolts - long runners useful for top anchor, three variations to start- finger crack- hand crack -or traverse in and skip the cracks altogether**

**B: Stick to Yer Rib 5.10b\*\* bolts stay right for cool arete**

**C: Torture Chamber 5.11d\* TR thin and mean, hasn't been led free**

**D: Sleeper 5.9\* crack – finish on “Sawtooth” scramble south from summit for descent**

**E: Oops I Did It Again 5.10c\* bolts**





## **Sawtooth Spire, west side**

**A: Sawtooth 5.8\* gear**

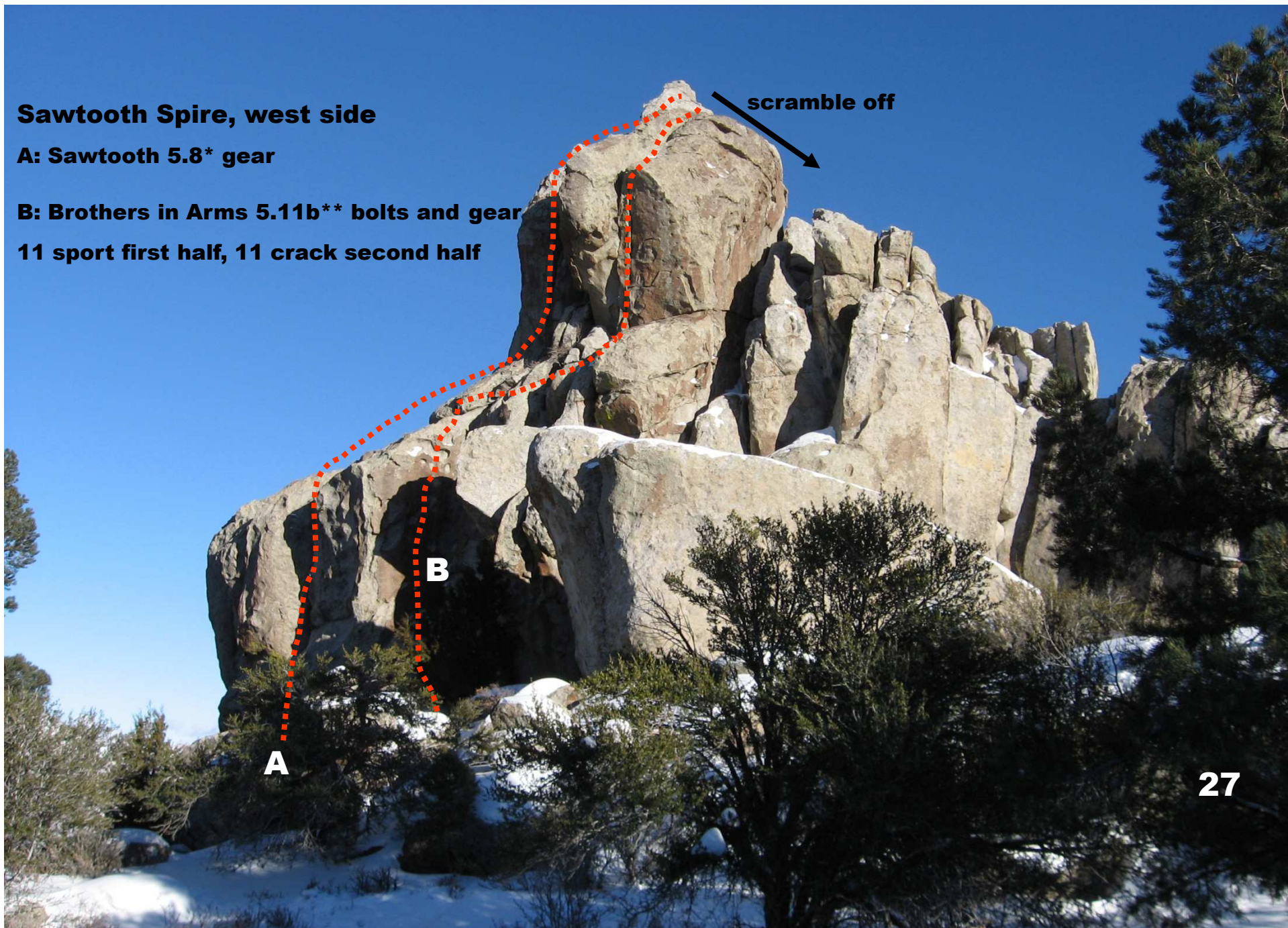
**B: Brothers in Arms 5.11b\*\* bolts and gear**

**11 sport first half, 11 crack second half**

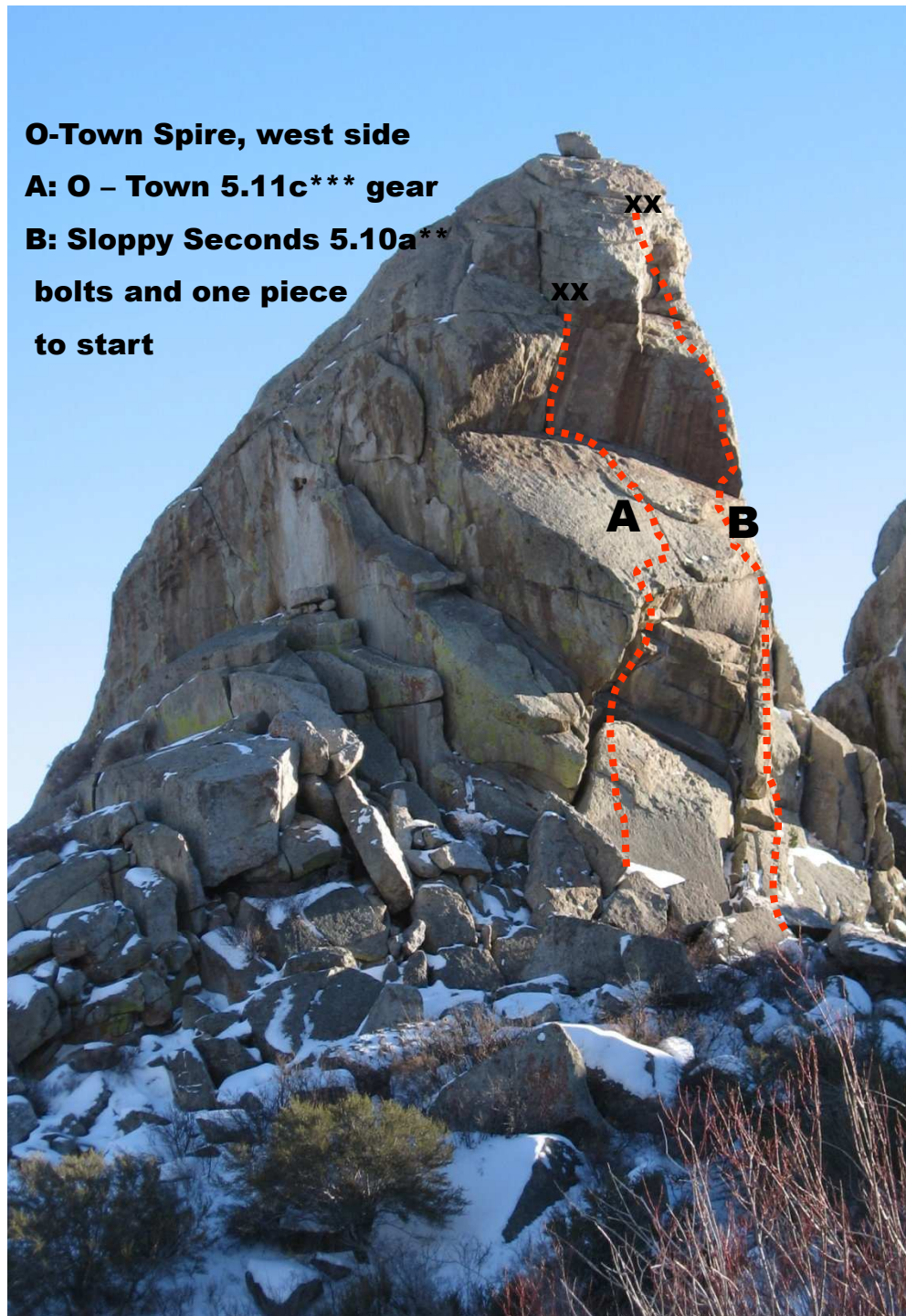
**scramble off**

**A**

**B**



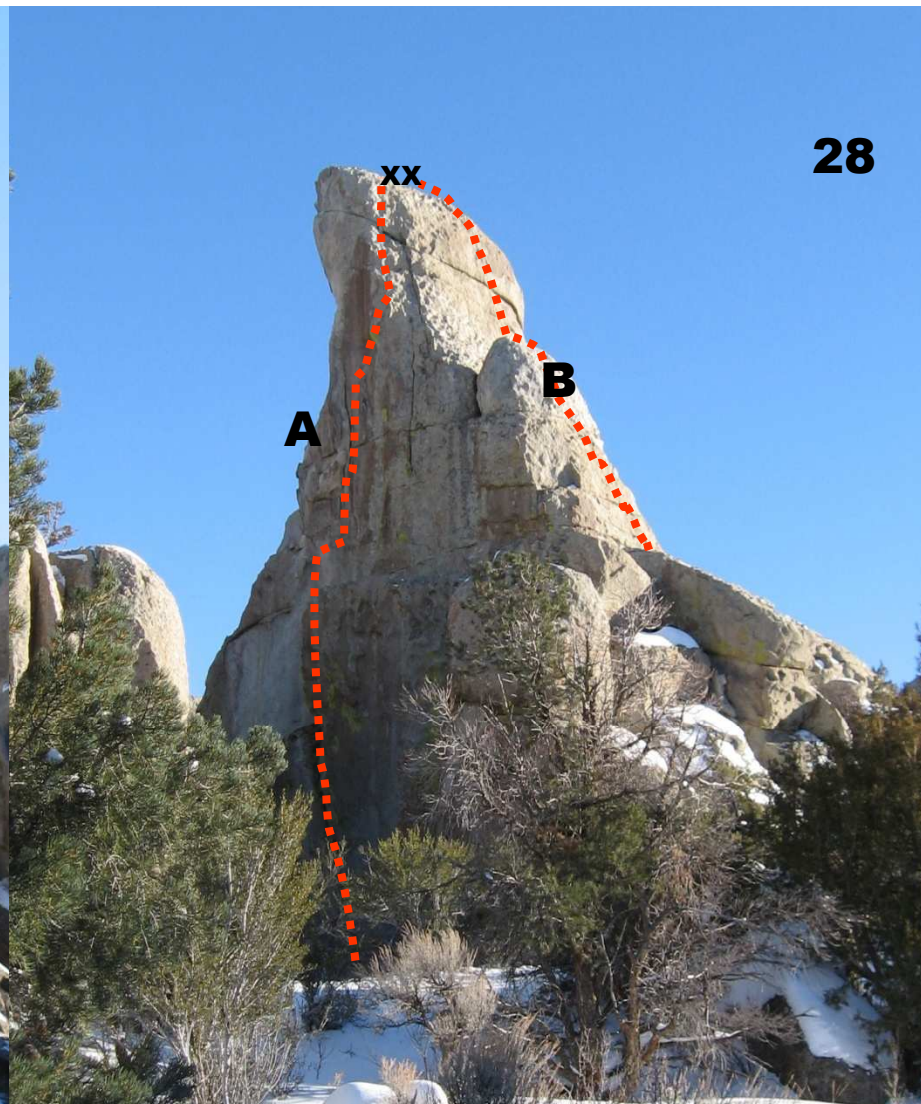




### **O-Town Spire, west side**

**A: O – Town 5.11c\*\*\* gear**

**B: Sloppy Seconds 5.10a\*\* bolts and one piece to start**



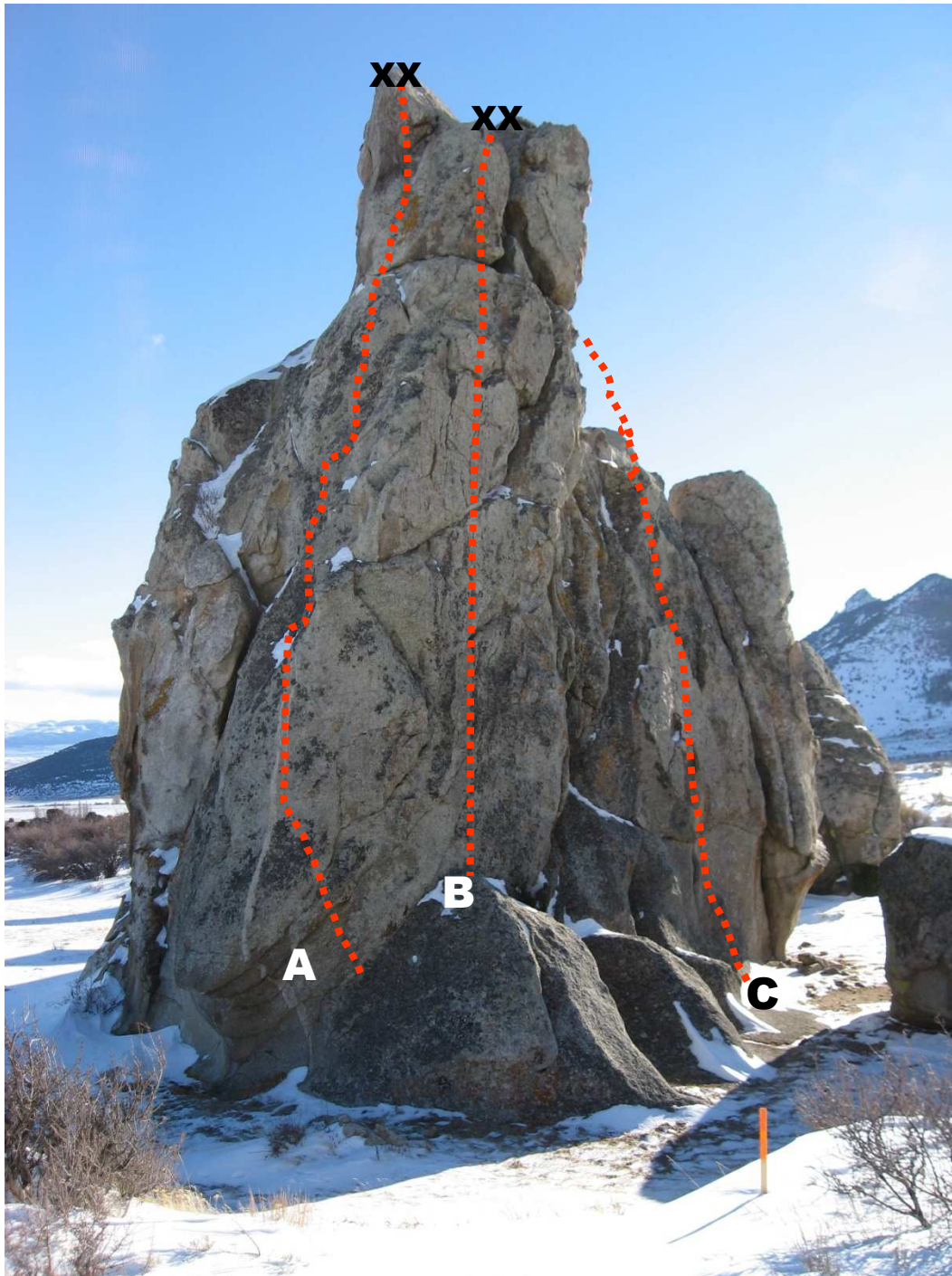
**28**

### **Saddle Horn, north and west sides**

**A: Fool For the City 5.11a\*\*\*bolts and gear-unless traversing in bolts only- three variations to start- finger crack, hand crack or traverse in. Long runners useful for top anchor.**

**B. Original Way 5.7\* gear**





## **Beef Butte, Back Yard Boulders Area.**

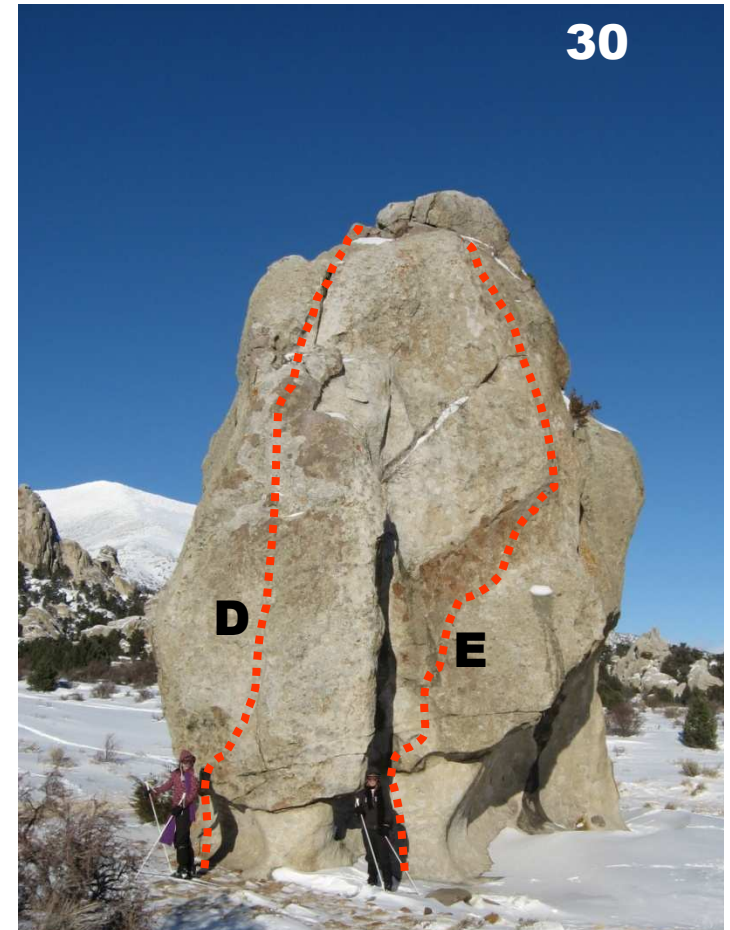
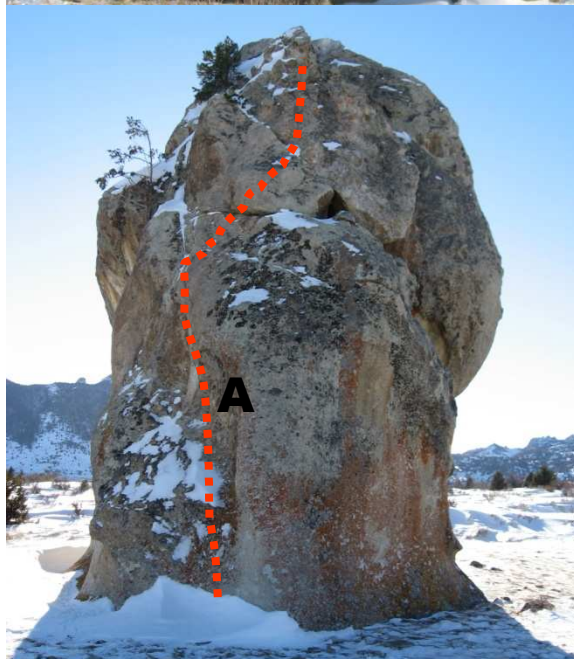
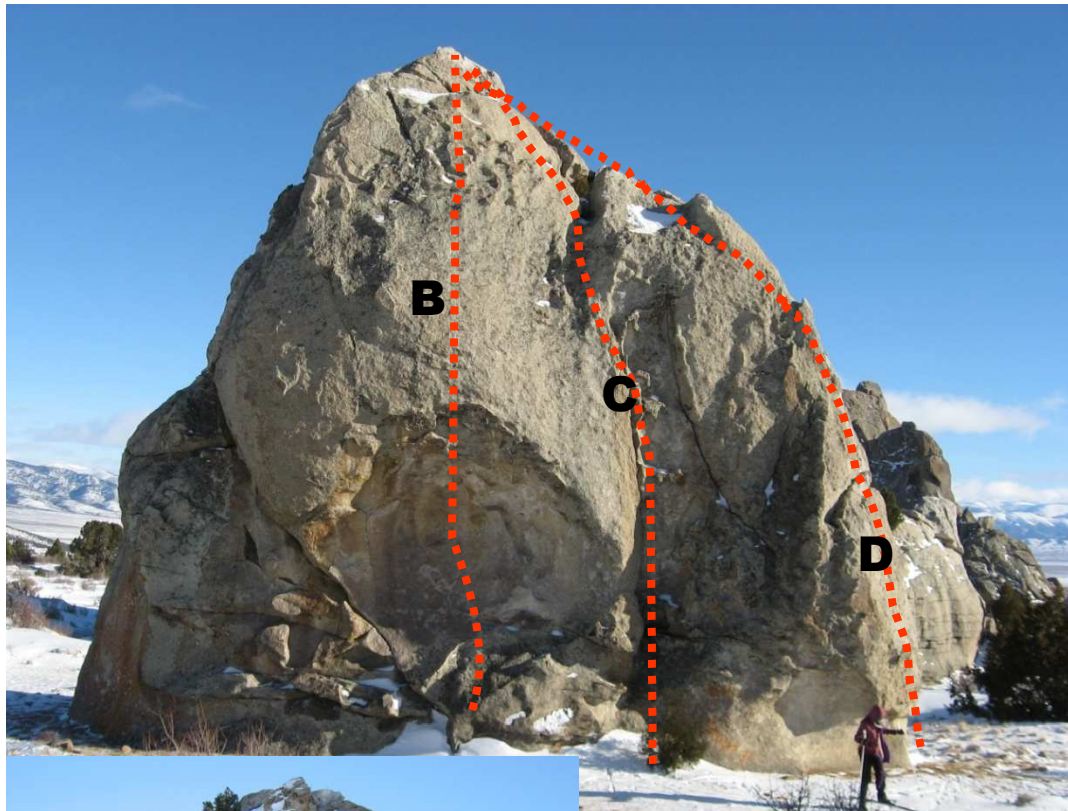
**A: Baby Beef 5.8\*\* bolts  
and gear**

**B: Chit Happens 5.8\*\* one  
bolt and gear**

**C: Cow Town 5.11a\* bolts**







### Johnny Cash, Back Yard Boulders Area

**A: Man in Black 5.9\* one bolt and gear**

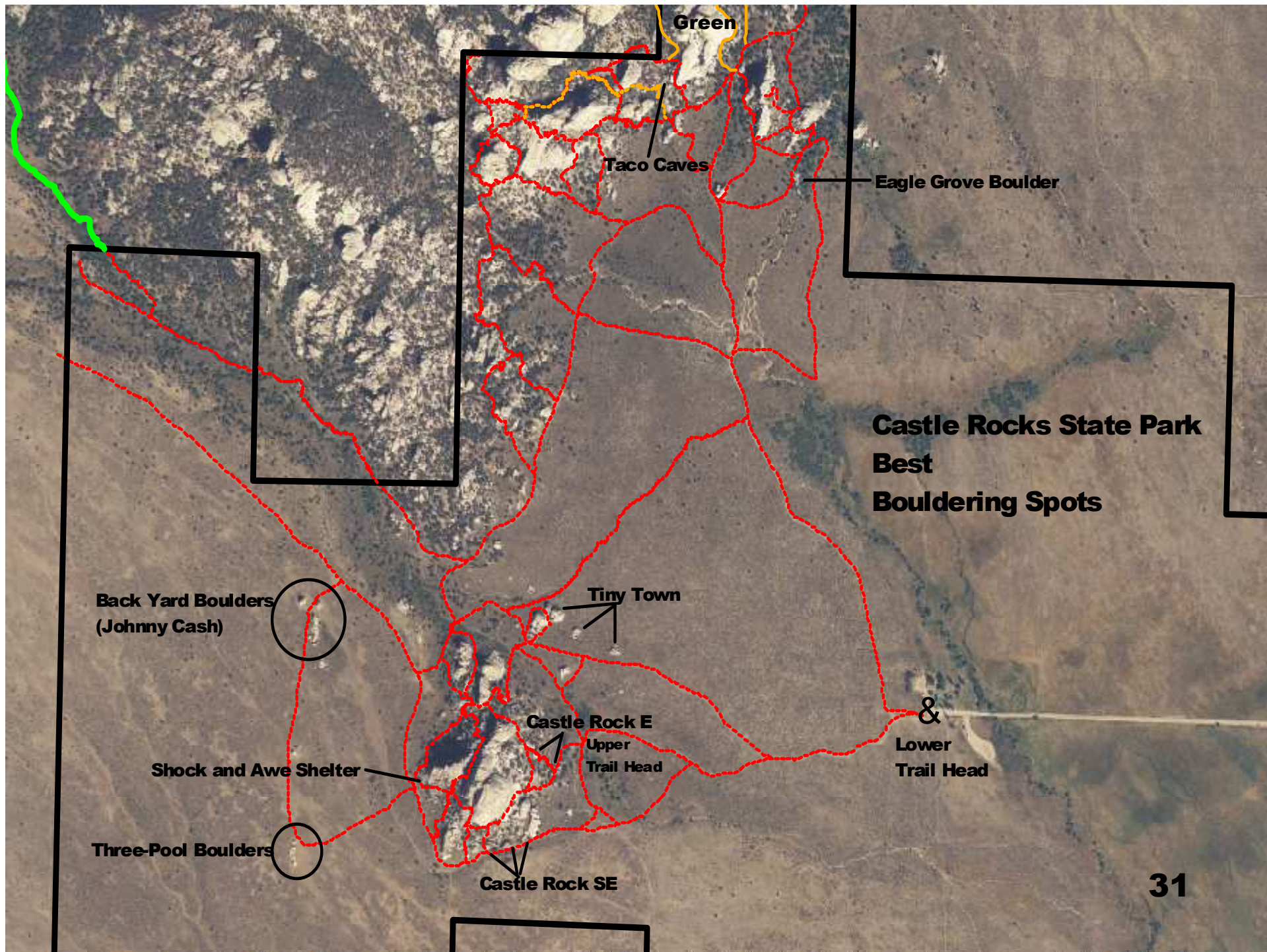
**B: Ring of Fire 5.11c\* bolts**

**C: Cash Crack 5.9\*\* gear and bolts**

**D: Country Trash 5.8\* bolts and gear**

**E: Five Feet High and Rising 5.9\*\* bolts**





**Green**

**Taco Caves**

**Eagle Grove Boulder**

**Castle Rocks State Park  
Best  
Bouldering Spots**

**Back Yard Boulders  
(Johnny Cash)**

**Tiny Town**

**Castle Rock E  
Upper  
Trail Head**

**&  
Lower  
Trail Head**

**Shock and Awe Shelter**

**Three-Pool Boulders**

**Castle Rock SE**

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